



No Child Left Behind Summary of Recent Changes

Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), each state was required to submit an “accountability workbook” last year to define how it will meet the requirements of the law. State workbooks vary, giving some states more flexibility than others. The U.S. Department of Education has approved requests from Tennessee for more accurate identification. They include:

- Students still learning English as their second language will be allowed five years and a summer to graduate rather than only four years and a summer. In addition, while they will take assessments their first academic year, their scores will not count until the second year to allow them more time to demonstrate their knowledge of the new language.
- Students with disabilities will also be allowed five years and a summer to graduate. In addition, they will have an option of an alternate standards assessment, especially developed to measure their progress, beginning next school year. More students will be allowed to take this test if the school can document the students’ significant disabilities.
- Tennessee sets high standards while also giving credit to schools making progress. Previously, a high school was considered proficient if it graduated 60 percent of its students. The state has changed the graduation standard to 90 percent, or a school must demonstrate improvement over the previous school year.
- Tennessee joined other states in implementing a more statistically valid method for measuring progress from one year to the next known as the confidence interval. The state believes it is important to more accurately identify those schools not achieving federal standards in order to channel resources to those who need them most.

For a complete list of proposed revisions to Tennessee’s accountability workbook, please visit www.state.tn.us/education/nclb04ltrtosimon.